

Recap 1. The Glory of God; 2. Our Union with Christ; 3. The enlightenment of the Spirit, 4. The Grace of the Triune God - Grace is not just pardon but also power to live effectively - All Give Purpose and Meaning to Our Lives

Session Five: How are we to live?

Options, choices, aberrant views of freedom.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body

The Heidelberg Catechism:

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.

He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my Heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.



John 17:1-5 *When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed...*



17:11 *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one....*



17:20-26 *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that*

you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, **that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**"

The ultimate Goal is to see the glory of God which will transform us!

Jonathan Edwards: Sermon - Heaven, a World of Love 1738

1. All of our love is somehow conditional
2. Our love is so hard to fully express
3. There is not a full mutuality or reciprocity
4. Love needs the loved one to be happy
5. We never want to say goodbye to those we love

Nothing in the world can satisfy these five concerns - We are built for the fullness of love in the family/kingdom of God

V26 "**that the love with which you have loved me may be in them**"

How does that help us now?

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.***

God's love is seen by us in His sacrificial act in redeeming His people for His glory. The Triune God loves and serves

Image of God; Likeness of God



Matthew 5:13-16 "*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.* ¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.* ¹⁵ *Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.* ¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Follows directly after the Beatitudes – what the kingdom will be like.

Not just "salt" but "**THE** salt"

Preserving that which is good and healthy. Enhancing flavour. Creating thirst. Applied to wounds for healing. Salt has a "sharpness" to its flavour.

Not just "light" but "**THE** light!"

Light overcomes darkness; truth is seen in the light. Light is attractive and compelling. Light cannot be hidden – hidden light is darkness.

Combined lights are brighter than small individual lights

"You **ARE** the salt of the earth...You **ARE** the light of the world."



The salt of the earth does not mock rotting meat. Where it can, it saves and seasons. And where it can't, it weeps. And the light of the world does not withdraw, saying 'good riddance' to godless darkness. It labours to illuminate. But not dominate. We don't own culture, and we don't rule it. We serve it with broken-hearted joy. John Piper

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven.**"

Children of the Father will reflect the Father.



"The object of our shining is not that men may see how good we are, nor even see us at all, but that they may see grace in us and God in us, and cry, 'What a Father these people must have.'" C H Spurgeon

His Glory among us, and growing within us, causes us to live with meaning and purpose.



1 Peter 4: 7-11 *The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Therefore... practical commands – based on practical reality.

Sober minded – absolutely in touch with genuine reality.

If we believe that the end is always possible/near – then we live with integrity and love. We're not afraid of the reckoning!

All people will either face judgement or mercy and grace – there is not an alternative that says "we will face nothing".

Secure in the love of God, we will be embraced by Jesus – we will meet face to face the one who has redeemed us.



Luke 15 ...his father saw him ... ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Christ will return – A transforming truth and a compelling motive

Prayer, Love, Hospitality, Service, Praise, Worship...

1. **Prayer** is the action, language and sign of dependence – it seeks to be led by the preeminent Christ.

2. **Love deeply** earnestly – with complete commitment and energy. Tough and True. Sincere, genuine, quality. THE vital sign John 13



John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you..."

Beyond human expectation... Love from God = love for one another.



*Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And **above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

1 Peter 4:8 Love covers a multitude of sins... Love IS ready to forgive and forgive again... Love finds a way to be patient to be kind etc 1 Cor 13:4-7

3. **Offer hospitality without grumbling** – love in action. 'Hospitality' – same root as 'hospital'; love the broken, wounded, lonely, despairing...



Colossians 1:21-23 once we were alienated and hostile in mind...

Hospitality or hostility?

"without grumbling" Look to see the image of Christ, however tainted...

Prayer, Love, Hospitality, Service...



*1 Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Every person has been given gifts... "What do we have that we did not receive"? 1 Corinthians 4:7 - No need to be boastful or negligent.

4. **Gifted to serve one another**

Varied gifts of grace used to serve; in everything God may be glorified.

"...speak the words of God!" - God is the origin of words of truth.

"...serve by the strength that God supplies" - God the origin of strength for service.

The strength that God provides for the purpose that God intends leading to the praise that God deserves.

We are called and enabled to praise, worship and proclaim the glory of God through our union with Christ and live as His ambassadors.

To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen